



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARYLAND

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

September 29, 2010

The Honorable Peter Fosselman, Mayor
and Members of the Kensington Town Council
Town of Kensington
3710 Mitchell Street
Kensington, Maryland 20895

RECEIVED OCT 04 2010

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

This letter is a follow-up to my recent telephone conversation with Mayor Fosselman concerning rumors that the boundaries for Walter Johnson High School may be up for review. As I informed the mayor, there is no truth to this rumor and there are no plans to review the boundary for Walter Johnson High School. Mayor Fosselman requested that I send this letter to further clarify the issue to town officials. It appears this rumor is associated with the recent County Council approval of the White Flint Sector Plan and the ongoing development of the Kensington Sector Plan.

The White Flint Sector Plan provides for 9,800 additional housing units to be constructed, of which almost all will be high-rise units. An elementary school site has been identified in the sector plan area to address future development impact. While there will be impacts on secondary schools, they are not sufficient to require either a middle school or high school site be identified in the plan. It is important to note that full build-out of the plan will take 20 or more years to achieve, and substantial public infrastructure is required for various phases of the plan to begin. Therefore, the impacts of the White Flint Sector Plan will be quite long-range in nature.

The Kensington Sector Plan foresees far fewer housing units, with the range estimated to be from about 500 to 1,400. This number of housing units depends greatly on the interest of property owners to redevelop properties and the desire of these property owners to develop either commercial or residential projects. As with the White Flint Sector Plan, the impacts of the Kensington Sector Plan are expected to be quite long-range in nature.

School boundary reviews are initiated when either new schools are opening—to address space deficits in existing schools—or when existing schools that are adjacent to overutilized schools have space available to relieve the overutilization of a school. Neither of these conditions is present in regard to the Walter Johnson Cluster elementary or secondary schools. No new school is scheduled to open and existing schools in adjacent clusters have no surplus capacity.

Thank you for your support of our public schools. If you have any further questions, please call me at 240-314-4702.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Crispell, Director
Division of Long-range Planning

BHC:lmr

Copy to: Mr. Bowers, Mr. Song

Division of Long-range Planning